



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/667,802	09/22/2000	Shigefumi Wada	4495-006	9689

7590 10/22/2003
Lowe Hauptman Gopstein Gilman & Berner LLP
1700 Diagonal Road Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

KISS, ERIC B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2122	6

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/667,802

Applicant(s)

WADA ET AL.

Examiner

Eric B. Kiss

Art Unit

2122

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment of August 11, 2003, has been received and entered. Claims 3-5 and 12-14 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment to the specification to include reference character "S22" appropriately addresses the objection to the drawings as detailed in the previous office action. Accordingly, this objection is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment.
3. Applicant's cancellation of claims 1, 2, and 6-11, renders moot all previous claim rejections as detailed in the previous office action. Dependent claims 3-5 now depend from newly added independent claim 12, and are therefore treated hereinafter as new claims.
4. Applicant's statements regarding the support in the original specification for specific limitations in new claim 12 are unclear. For example, on page 9 of Applicant's response, several references are made to "Paragraph (a) of new claim 12", each pointing to different portions of the specification or describing different limitations. It appears that one or more of these references should instead refer to different paragraphs of claim 12. Additionally, it is unclear to which portion of claim 12 the phrase "Paragraph (1) of new claim 12" refers. The limitation enumerated as (1) consists of three separate "paragraphs". Clarification is required.

5. On page 9 of Applicant's response, Applicant states "Original claims 8 and 9 are combined into amended claim 8..." however, claim 8 appears to have been cancelled by Applicant. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 3-5 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. The claims are generally indefinite, failing to conform to current U.S. practice. They are replete with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph problems such as lack of antecedent basis. The claims should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In light of this, a lack of a rejection based on prior art to a particular claim should not be construed as an indication of impending allowability of that claim.

Below are some examples of such problems in the claims.

Art Unit: 2122

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the tasks" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the tasks" in line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the function groups" in line 26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Enumerated limitations 2-9 of claim 12 appear to recite active method steps although the claim sets forth in lines 5-6 that components of a computer-readable recording medium are being disclosed.

In lines 28-29 of claim 12, the phrase "i.e., additional data and style formats" renders the scope of the claim indefinite as it is unclear whether the items to be entered comprise or consist of additional data and style formats.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "in addition to ... [a] data-writing processing module" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "said database" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 2122

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table unit" in line 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 contains a parenthetical expression in lines 17-19. It is unclear whether the limitations enclosed by the parentheses are part of the claimed invention.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the function" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Numbered item (4) in claim 13 is not clearly and positively recited, making it unclear whether or not the application that writes the data onto a writing target table is present or even required.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the database" in line 24. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table" in line 28. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table unit" in line 31. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "said writing target database" in the last line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "each table" in the last line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Enumerated limitations 5-8 of claim 13 appear to recite active method steps although the claim sets forth in lines 1-2 that components of a computer-readable recording medium are being disclosed.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Eric B. Kiss whose telephone number is (703) 305-7737. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tue. - Fri., 7:30 am - 5:00 pm. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam, can be reached on (703) 305-4552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 09/667,802

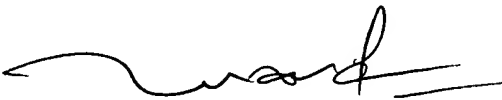
Page 7

Art Unit: 2122

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

EBK

October 17, 2003



TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER